

NOV 17 2010

OUR WATER - OUR DECISION

DEMAND A STRONG CLEAN WATER PLAN

The Chesapeake Bay is slowly dying from an over abundance of uncontrolled pollution washing off the land into the water. In places, the Bay can no longer support life. After periods of heavy rain it is unhealthy to swim in the Bay. **Stemming this tide of pollution is essential if we hope to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers to their once healthy and productive state.**

The state of Maryland has developed a 10-year plan to reduce nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) pollution to the Bay and its tributaries. The Environmental Protection Agency gave Maryland's draft Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) a good grade yet it lacks detail on how the state will reach its goals. We know what needs to be done—what we don't know is how the state proposes to get it done.

That is why we are asking people like you who believe clean water is a right not a privilege to write EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. The EPA is responsible for ensuring the state plans will finally result in clean water. The EPA must require Maryland to outline how it will get the job done.

Please use the attached sample letter to **write a hand-written note to Administrator Jackson** and we will deliver the letter to her for you.

Please help us ensure that, in the years ahead, our children and our communities have abundant, clean, safe water to drink and swim in. Clean water benefits everyone. Dirty water kills fish, crabs and jobs.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
6 Herndon Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-268-8316
www.cbf.org



I support a strong clean water plan with teeth!

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I am a big supporter of clean water, in the Chesapeake Bay and in my community. For years Maryland has worked to clean our waters but progress has been painfully slow. Now, with the development of the state's first Watershed Implementation Plan, the EPA has the opportunity of a lifetime to ensure the establishment of effective programs, incentives and penalties to finally clean-up the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Although Maryland received a passing grade on its plan from the EPA, citizens need assurance Maryland's proposal will become a reality. The EPA must require the state to detail *how* it intends to implement the plan. For example, the state must address the "funding gaps" and "new regulatory/legislative changes" necessary to meet plan goals.

I ask you to use your position as EPA Administrator to push Maryland to improve its draft plan ensuring all the necessary measures will be in place to achieve clean water by 2020.

We know what the problems are. We have the technology to address the problem. We just need a strong, enforceable plan.

We are at the tipping point and your actions will determine to a very large degree whether we succeed in restoring clean water in the Bay or must explain to the next generation why all the fish are floating.

Thank you.

Name Jim Karroupis
Address 6719 Caleb Dorsey Sq.
Elkridge, MD 21075
E-mail jim_kb@yahoo.com

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